

Port Orford Free Press

Vol. 1 Number 5 — Tuesday, May 27, 2014
A Publication of Citizens For A Free Port Orford

Special PORT COMMISSION Edition

Rebuttal

[Ed: This letter was originally sent by Commissioner Webb in response to Commissioner Schofield's letters, and he has allowed us to republish it here, Commissioner Schofield's letters are also included as a separate attachment.]

All,
 My name is Brett Webb. I am the senior commissioner at the Port of Port Orford. I am also involved with ocean and fisheries management through my positions as an advisor to ODFW Nearshore Fisheries Management, a board member with the Southern Oregon Ocean Resource Coalition, Founder of the Port Orford Reorganized Fishermans Association, and a commercial fisherman of 20 years holding multiple Oregon fishery permits.

Allow me first to apologize on behalf of my community for the actions of Commissioner Dianne Scholfield. To be frank, she has misrepresented my community via an email to you all, as well as to our honorable Governor. I have struggled to find any truth at all in her mentioned emails, except that she is doing this to further her fish sales business as indicated, by using a National Marine Sanctuary to restrict access and production, forcing out her competitors.

Allow me to set the record straight. My community stands strongly opposed to the National Marine Sanctuary Program as the Program has proven to be flawed and abusive. Until such a time as the United States Congress makes substantial clarifications and changes to the Sanctuary Act, I seriously doubt any informed community would invite such a device.

To be clear, no coercion has occurred of any type. The facts are, the Port Orford City Council voted unanimously on October 17, 2013 to NOT form an exploratory committee to investigate NMS nomination. Then, after further

attempts by a few, including Ms. Scholfield to move forward with the nomination process, our wise City council found it prudent to pass a resolution opposing an NMS at their April meeting. The Port of Port Orford then passed our resolution opposing an NMS at our May board meeting joining the Port of Bandon, the Port of Gold Beach, and the Port of Brookings-Harbor in opposition. The Southern Oregon Ocean Resource Coalition also stands opposed.

To verify my claims, search the internet for Port Orford Council Meetings, as all are recorded and posted, or see the minutes of meetings at the official city website.

In closing, I would ask you to disregard any comments received from Ms. Scholfield, and, even forgive her for her tactics. As an employee of the NGO pushing for Sanctuary designation, I'm certain, she is the one who has been coerced.

Truthfully yours, Brett Webb

Trouble in Paradise

- The Truth Fairy

This past week, the Port Commission passed a resolution of non-support towards nomination of our fishing waters becoming a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Prior to the meeting, an email was sent by Dianne Schofield claiming that "Port Orford has been heavily bullied by a few fishermen" and that "our small community is desperately poor with no change". She also details that she has a vested interest in this nomination going forward by claiming "As a current city councilor and port commissioner, I make my livelihood by marketing and selling locally harvested seafood" and furthermore, believes that even though the city council had already passed a resolution of non-support, that there is some "contingent of Port Orford citizens who want to discuss this issue" with the governor. She again states that we are living in poverty and that

nothing is being done. In the body of the attached letter to the governor, Schofield goes on to say that a small group has polarized the community and that Mayor Jim Auburn began the effort to bring a NMS nomination forward, and had tried to build some sort of collective towards these ends, but was thwarted once again; however, he was thwarted by the city council—who we must surmise is a part of the bullies since it too passed a resolution of non-support. I remind you she sent this out in the morning of May 20th and prior to the Port Commissioner's meeting held later that day and airs no regard to the legislative process!

The Port Commissioner's meeting was well attended by an audience robust with representatives of the large fishing community, businesses that by extension depend on the fishing industry and many who had personal interests in the matter. At last month's meeting, the Port Commissioners were tasked to complete their due diligence and present both the positive and negative impacts of a NMS nomination and review OPAC report on NMS. Two commissioners who had claimed a proponent position said that they would do so; however, both Commissioner Calvanese and Schofield failed to present the proponent position again and Commissioner Schofield stated she had not reviewed the OPAC report at all. The Port of Port Orford Commission passed the resolution of non-support.

Please note that Calvanese and Schofield asked for more time to educate the 3200 people within the Port's district; however, both Commissioners Calvanese and Schofield had not done so during the past year when they were both signing petitions and letters and calling upon NOAA out of public view. The lack of transparency elicited comments from the audience stated that they had no knowledge or little knowledge of what or who was bringing this nomination forward. Moreover, Commissioner Calvanese and Schofield both alluded that they

had been working on the nomination process for approximately a year. Although, Schofield describes in her letter to the Governor, that Jim Auburn and a few others had taken upon this endeavor a year ago and yet Commissioner Calvanese and Schofield could not present a proponent view after a six month period of requests from the Port Commission. This is a very interesting web of ideas to propose something that would impact an entire area without having answers as to why it would benefit the area at large and neglecting the input of a community.

First, if you cannot articulate why a NMS in our waters is a positive contribution to our community, then why would you meet with NOAA and others outside of our community and ask that we be nominated in the first place? Why would you continue this endeavor on false claims to all representatives and congressmen at both state and national levels and to the governor directly? And why would you do this, lastly, when you know the people of the city have opposed it by vote? And, lastly, why would you represent yourself, your self-interests, and channel this through your position with the Ocean Resource Team—a 501c3—and cite your position on both the Port Commission and City Council, two elective bodies that represent the interests of the local residents?

This is malfeasance. Commissioner/ City Councilor Schofield should be censured if not removed from her duties. Commissioner Schofield represents a small group that keeps attempting to represent their interests as being those of 3200 area residents. It appears that although the legislative process is working and representative of the people, the small group that steers Commissioner Schofield continues their rhetoric of “bullied” by legislative process and “polarized” and now seeks personal resolution through misrepresenting our legislative process to US and State legislators and to the Governor. Unfortunately for Commissioner Schofield, their direction has caused her to overlook her own position and act in such a manner that it is time to ask that she be reviewed by the State Ethics Board for malfeasance of office. (Official Misconduct n. *improper and/or illegal acts by a public official which violate his/her duty to*

follow the law and act on behalf of the public good. Often such conduct is under the guise or “color” of official authority.)

Lastly, Commissioner Calvanese claimed his polarization did not come from a “bullied” position but because a year ago he sent an email to NOAA with some questions and they had yet to respond. I sent an email forth on April 17th, prior to NOAA arriving to town and received two emails from Lisa Wooninck, Ph.D., Policy Coordinator, NOAA Sanctuaries who also could not state how the sanctuary could benefit our fishing waters but stated it “might bring in tourism”. Since I do not represent any industry or a publicly funded ocean research group, I must wonder why Ms. Wooninck chose to reply so swiftly to my questions and not of those of Commissioner Calvanese. Moreover, it is unreasonable to utilize this failure as a reason to attempt to forestall a vote for six months.

Over the next few months, I hope that all elected officers do their due diligence and begin by identifying their community and community growth not in self-serving terms but in realistic and factual terms. We are not living in poverty but we do live within our means, we have strong family values, and place humanity over profit. The majority of residents are classified as seniors and the median income here is 32K---it’s called **affordable living not poverty.**

The Port Commissioner’s meeting was representative of 3200 people and not simply a select group who continues their rhetoric of “bullied” and “polarized” and misrepresentation.

City Council Videos

- staff report

The Port Orford City Council meetings have been recorded by citizens and are available on-line at:

www.archive.org

In the 'Search:' box, enter "port orford", or refine the search by adding a year "port orford 2014". In addition other special meetings have also been recorded and placed in the archive.

**I'm for TRUTH,
No matter who tells it.
I'm for JUSTICE,
No matter who it is for
Or against.**

-Malcom X

Port Orford Free Press now on-line.. We upload each new edition of the POFP to www.archive.org. If you miss one – find it there!

Calendar of Events

City Planning Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month:

June 10th, 2014 – 6PM

Port Commission meets 3rd Tuesday of the month:

June 17th, 2014 - 6PM

City Council meets the 3rd Thursday of the month:

June 19th, 2014 – 3:30PM

– City Budget on the agenda

Farmer's Market

The local Farmer's Market is now open on Saturdays from 9am to Noon. Located at the corner of Hwy 101 and 8th Street in the Food Co-Op parking lot.

Saturday Flea Market

The Saturday Flea Market is now operating on 15th Street, between Ray's Food and the Library.

“Those who surrender freedom for security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one”

- Benjamin Franklin

Notice

All submissions to the *Port Orford Free Press* must be made by email, in text only format – all other forms will be rejected.

Email submissions to:

PortOrfordFreePress@gmail.com